

Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee/Partnership Meeting

Esterro Llano Grande World Birding Center
3301 S. FM 1015, Weslaco, Texas 78596

April 22, 2010 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance

Jaime Flores-TWRI	Brad Lamb, EPA
Ronnie Ramirez-TSSWCB	Darrel Gun, HWWS
Amanda Hernandez-UTB/TSC Student	Arnulfo Flores, Watershed resident
Luis Jimenez-UTB/TSC Student	Kyle O'Haver, TPWD
Chris Rakestraw-C-SAC & LLMF	Willy Cupid, TPWD
Pavel Vakhlamon-UTB/TSC Student	Michael Fisher, City of Weslaco
Rocky Freund-NRA	Melissa Gonzalez, City of San Juan
Joe Hinojosa-City of Brownsville	Dr. Kim Jones, TAMUK
Robert Diaz de Leon, City of Alamo	Alex De La Rosa-City of Alamo
Roy Jimenez, City of Weslaco	Ernesto Reyes-USFWS
Grace Segovia, City of Pharr	Jaime Longoria-Hidalgo SWCD
Jesus Garza, City of Pharr	Omar Rios-City of Harlingen
Epifano Macias, City of Pharr	Amanda Engledow-TWRI
Luis Marri, City of Pharr	Jude Benavides-UTB/TSC
Roger Miranda, TCEQ	Javier Guerrero-TAMUK

4:30 Social – Snacks and Refreshments Provided by

5:00 Welcome and Introductions.....Jude Benavides, UTB (Steering Committee Chair)

Welcome by Kyle Ohaver – Esterro Llano Grande World Birding Center

5:05 Texas Stream Team.....Jason Pinchback, TX Stream Team

- Jason gave a presentation on what the Texas Stream Team did
- Non-Point Source, point source, and watershed protection aspects.
- Integrity of Water (Chemical variables, biotic factors, flow regime, energy source, habitat structure)
- Outreach Initiatives (outdoor and classroom presentations, curriculum distribution, teacher workshops...)
- All data is collected within a TCEQ approved QAPP. Data are intended to be used for problem identification, education, research, decision making.
- Train the trainer approach

- Monitoring initiatives (data used for (see above), sampling for (pH DO, TDS, temp, flow, E. coli, secchi, filling gaps as a part of the coordinated monitoring process, transparency tube, nitrate, phosphates, intensive bacteria survey
- Stream Team Training on May 22, 2010 at Esterro Llano Grande
- Ruben Saldana Jr. Tx Stream Team Volunteer. Did a Science Fair project utilizing what he had learned at a Stream Team Volunteer. He won and took all the way to state level. “An Arroyo Colorado an Impaired Water Body” used Stream Team kit to do testing. Project was done in Weslaco, above site of impairment and in the middle of the zone of impairment. Saw a lot of trash in the Rio Hondo, dead fish. Good experience for him...got an award from the Navy. Wants to continue for the next year and take to science fair again.

5:30 Work Group Updates (10 minutes each)

Agricultural Issues Andy Garza, TSSWCB

- 20 WQMP (goal) and already have 12 certified. Still working with producers to soil test. Trying to spread the word about project.
- Integrated Farm Management – slightly behind on soil testing because it has been so wet. Still working on trying to get producers to the meetings. Also working on survey for effective BMPs.
- Irrigation Audit Training held in April. They had a great turn out La Feria hosted, Donna, Harlingen, Santa Rosa, others attended. SAFE program. This sparked schools to ask for individual on site trainings. Good progress for the project.

Habitat Issues Dr Jones, TAMUK

- Key component to restore habitat and build wetlands. 4 cities wetlands project (San Juan, San Benito, La Feria, Alamo trying to get in). Demonstration project. Non-point source control, not just point source. Stormwater runoff.
- Solar Powered Water Circulators - working on proposal.
- Resaca meeting next week to see if land owners will let them put in a conservation easement.
- Cameron County Drainage District wants a wetland.
- Received notice of approval of the LID proposal from TCEQ, now it has to go to EPA.

Water Quality Monitoring..... Rocky Freund, Nueces RA

- Clean Rivers Program, coordinate monitoring for Arroyo Colorado.
- Recreation Use Attainability meeting this evening to discuss participation in the study.
- There will also be a coordinated monitoring meeting next week.

Education and Outreach..... Jaime Flores, TWRI

- We have watershed boundary signs up!!!
- Estero Llano Grande, working with schools that are having problems meeting TAX guidelines. There were over 300 students last week and over 800 before that.
- May 14-16...dragon fly days. Dragon Flies are water quality indicator. Will be held at the Estero Llano Grande

6:10 Long-Term Partnership SustainabilityAmanda Engledow, TWRI

- We did not get either of the Sustainability proposals submitted to TSSWCB or TCEQ funded.
- TCEQ has agreed to fund the Partnership and the Watershed Coordinator through August of 2011.
- We need to get the Sustainability Group back up and running.

6:20 Grants Update.....Amanda Engledow, TWRI

- We will be submitting the following proposals:
 - TCEQ – solar powered water circulators
 - TCEQ – watershed protection plan for Brownsville
 - TCEQ – update to the WPP

6:30 Other Business Jaime Flores, TWRI

6:45 Adjourn.....Jude Benavides, UTB (Steering Committee Chair)